

Members

Rep. William Bailey, Chair
Rep. Markt Lytle
Rep. James Buck
Rep. William Friend
Sen. Thomas Weatherwax
Sen. James Merritt
Sen. Katie Wolf
Sen. Samuel Smith, Jr.
Herschel Cook
David Butterfield
Richard P. Jones
Karen Large
William Goffinet
Mayor Howard Hatcher
James R. Murphy



LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE STUDY COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 18, 1999
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. William Bailey, Chair; Rep. William Friend; Sen. Samuel Smith, Jr.;
Karen Large; William Goffinet; Mayor Howard Hatcher; James R. Murphy.

Members Absent: Rep. Markt Lytle; Rep. James Buck; Sen. Thomas Weatherwax; Sen.
James Merritt; Sen. Katie Wolf; Herschel Cook; David Butterfield; Richard
P. Jones.

Representative William Bailey, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

Discussion of Study Topic and Work Plan.

After the members of the Commission introduced themselves, Representative Bailey outlined his plan for the Commission's work during this interim. He stated that he wanted to explore two questions: 1) Has the 1974 property tax freeze served its purpose; and 2) Should local government have fiscal home rule? Representative Bailey added that he wants to have several meetings around the state so that more citizens and local officials would be able to participate in the discussions. Having a couple of meetings on university campuses could also be beneficial to students and faculty.

Representative William Friend, Commission member, asked for more specifics on the statewide meetings and Representative Bailey replied that since it was already mid-August there was not enough time to set a goal of drafting any legislation, but the Commission would use its time for fact finding. He added that the various schools within the universities may have faculty and students with differing views on how to answer the two questions.

¹Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Representative Friend noted that the impending revision of the state's real property reassessment manual confounds the Commission, making it difficult to make proposals because of the uncertainty. Mr. James Murphy, Commission member, added that speaking with local officials from around the state would enrich the conversation. Vincennes Mayor Howard Hatcher, Commission member, echoed those thoughts.

Tell City Mayor William Goffinet, Commission member, stated that he has talked about fiscal home rule for years, adding that local officials who impose high taxes might not be re-elected and that officials who tried to keep taxes low suffered in 1984 when additional limits were imposed. Mayor Goffinet recalled that the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns had distributed information a few years ago that promoted fiscal home rule.

Representative Bailey said that he would be interested to find out what level of services are being provided by local government. Representative Friend noted that the Commission members and staff must be prepared for the many "how to" questions that will be asked at the meetings. He also stated his desire to find innovative ways of financing required projects, such as correction of combined sewer overflow problems. Mayor Goffinet added that federal funding is not as available as it used to be, but that the state revolving loan fund was helpful.

Future Meeting Dates.

The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns and the Association of Indiana Counties both offered to provide space at their annual meetings for Commission meetings.

Representative Bailey set the meeting schedule as follows:

September 14, 1999 , 10:00 a.m. – South Bend, IN – During the Association of Indiana Counties annual conference.

September 22, 1999, 3:15 p.m. – Bloomington, IN – During the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns annual meeting.

October 5, 1999, 1:30 p.m. – Purdue University.

October 20, 1999, 1:30 p.m. – Ball State University.

October 28, 1999, 10:00 a.m. – State House, Indianapolis – Final meeting.

(Meeting notices with more specific information will be mailed prior to each meeting. Any changes to the above dates, times, or locations will be duly noted.)

There being no further business, Representative Bailey then adjourned the meeting just before noon.